



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

## **Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Spencer Gross, 241-4584**

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### **Public Environmental Survey Highlights Local Concern About Environmental Issues**

Each year, the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) surveys residents in communities adjacent to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) to learn about any concerns regarding environmental cleanup activities currently underway or about issues that may need to be addressed by DOE's Environmental Management program.

The "Public Environmental Survey" is mailed to about 800 area residents and is also distributed at various locations and at presentations ORSSAB's Public Outreach Committee gives to community groups.

This year's survey was conducted during July and August, prior to the board's annual planning meeting. The survey results were provided to ORSSAB members for their consideration in developing the board's work plan for FY 2012, which began October 1.

Twenty-three percent of survey respondents said their top priority was long-term stewardship of radioactive contamination and waste placed in DOE's disposal facility in Bear Creek Valley.

Second in the survey ratings, with 21 percent, was the need to continue and/or expand the monitoring for groundwater and continue actions that will reduce potential contamination leaving DOE property.

Third, noted by 12 percent of respondents, was support for the demolition of several hundred buildings at the Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, followed by economic development at the East Tennessee Technology Park, selected by 10 percent.

Rounding out the results was:

- Economic development at the East Tennessee Technology Park, noted by 10 percent.
- Historic preservation at Y-12, Oak Ridge National Lab and East Tennessee Technology Park (9 percent)
- Educating students and the public about the history of the DOE and contamination at the site (9 percent)
- Cleanup of the Bear Creek Burial Grounds (9 percent)
- Transportation of radioactive and chemically contaminated waste on public roads and highways (7 percent)

The survey is available and can be submitted any time through the board's website at [www.oro.doe.gov/em/ssab/publicsurvey.htm](http://www.oro.doe.gov/em/ssab/publicsurvey.htm).

ORSSAB is DOE's citizen advisory panel that provides advice and recommendations to the department on its environmental cleanup operations on the ORR.

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board meets at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tenn., at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The public is encouraged to attend and an open comment period is provided. For additional information, visit [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab) or call the support office at 865-241-4583 or 241-4584.

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